

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Pending Claims

Claims 8, 12-17, and 35-42 are pending. All other previously pending claims have been cancelled, without prejudice.

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 9-11, and claims 9-11 have been cancelled, accordingly. Claims 12 and 38 have been amended to correct the dependencies thereof, and claims 12-17 and 36-42 have been amended to correct punctuation and spelling errors.

No new matter is added by way of these amendments.

Summary of the Office Action

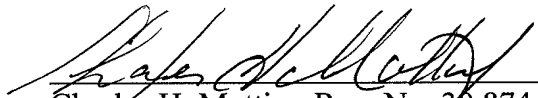
The Office Action presents several rejections of the former claims, but indicates that former claims 11-17 recite allowable subject matter and would be in condition for allowance if rewritten in independent form. The Office Action further indicates that claims 35-42 would be in condition for allowance provided that the dependency of claim 38 is corrected.

In order to expedite prosecution, and not in acquiescence of the rejections presented, the claims have been amended so as to recite subject matter that the Office has deemed allowable. In view of these amendments, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and the pending claims allowed.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles H. Mottier", is written over a horizontal line.

Charles H. Mottier, Reg. No. 30,874
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6731
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

Date: December 24, 2008